

Radio Stamps

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Hello again, and welcome to *Radio Stamps*. You're tuned to the monthly show that's all about the fun of collecting postage stamps on the topic of radio. Collecting stamps about radio is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Greetings today from correspondents who wrote recently from France, New Zealand, and the United States. Letters to *Radio Stamps* are always welcome with news, comments and suggestions for the program. It was nice to hear again from Franck Parisot of Bagneux and Remy Porte of Rennes, both in France. They sent along information for the upcoming 1995 edition of the *Radio Stamps* bibliography. Many thanks Franck and Remy for your information about articles on radio stamps in the French publications PHILA QSL INFOS and CEDRT RADIO. I'll more information about the 1995 *Radio Stamps* bibliography on the February program.

Mike Smith of Matamata, New Zealand, wrote as a follow-up to the *Radio Stamps* program in the summer when I featured the Aunt Daisy stamp from New Zealand. He sent along a New Zealand Telecom phonecard, issued prior to Christmas 1993, that features Aunt Daisy's portrait. This has certainly added a new wrinkle to my collection with my first radio on phonecard item. Thanks so much Mike for sending along this unique collectable.

It was good to hear again from Bart Lee, of San Francisco, California, who is helping to locate a 1925 reference about EKKO stamps. That's spelled E-K-K-O. These verified reception stamps were issued during the early days of radio by stations around the world to confirm reception reports. For collectors that are interested in the history of EKKO stamps, there are some great references in the 1995 *Radio Stamps* bibliography. I hope Bart that your search is successful this fall for the February 1925 issue of Radio News. I hope too that you're able to locate the April and July issues of Popular Electronics for 1956. Perhaps other listeners can be of help too with these earlier radio stamp references. Please drop me a line if you can help.

James McClure of Lexington, Kentucky, wrote with a request for information in reply to my column about ham stamps, in the September issue of the Journal, published by the North American Shortwave Association. I hope the references I sent along James will be of help. Many thanks for enclosing return postage with your request. My program here on HCJB, and my column in the Journal of the North American Shortwave Association, are both volunteer efforts.

This is program number 44. The topic is radio stations on stamps, and I have a collecting tip about Radio Canada International. Away back in August, our family went on a summer camping trip through the maritime provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, on the eastern coast of Canada. Along the way we stopped at some famous radio sites. Our first visit was just outside Sackville, in New Brunswick, near the Nova Scotia border. We stopped at the transmitter site of

Radio Canada International. It's a spectacular site, with an elaborate array of towers and antennas, right beside the Trans-Canada Highway. Visitors are welcome and the staff provide public tours. If you're planning a trip to eastern Canada, be sure to stop in. For the times of guided tours, and other information about the site, you can write to Marc Leblanc, spelled M-a-r-c L-e-b-l-a-n-c, Plant Manager, RCI Shortwave Transmitting Station, P.O. Box 1200, Sackville, New Brunswick, E0A 3C0, Canada. The address again is Marc Leblanc, Plant Manager, RCI Shortwave Transmitting Station, P.O. Box 1200, Sackville, New Brunswick, E0A 3C0, Canada.

The inauguration of the shortwave transmitting station of Radio Canada International, at Sackville, was commemorated by Canada on June 1st, 1971, with a special postage stamp. This commemorative stamp, with a denomination of \$0.15, features stylized maple leaves, in red, orange and yellow, on a white background. In nearly microscopic letters, in black across the top of the stamp, on the left, in both English and French, are the words "Speaking to the World". On the right is spelled out "Radio Canada International". The Scott catalogue number for this postage stamp is 541.

Some stamps of this RCI issue in 1971 were printed with side bars of luminescent material that show up when exposed to ultraviolet light. The luminescent material on these special stamps, known as "tagged" stamps, activated the triggering mechanism of the electronic machinery for sorting, facing or cancelling letters. Tagging was first introduced in Great Britain in 1959 as an experiment, and was used later by other countries to expedite the handling of mail. Following Great Britain were Germany in 1961, then Canada and Denmark in 1962. The RCI issue in Canada is a good example of a stamp issued both with and without luminescent tagging. This unique stamp, with two varieties, would certainly make a great addition to your collection.

Well, that's all for today's program. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome, and I hope too you'll write with news. Here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.